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Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

HERWITH FULL TEXT BERNARD GRETRZMAN BYLINER FRONT PAGE NEW YORK TIMES FRIDAY, JANUARY 18 HEADED "SUEZ ARMS PACT EMERGES FROM AMERICAN PROPOSAL":

JERUSALEM, FRIDAY, JAN. 18 - SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS DISCLOSED THIS MORNING THAT A DETAILED AMERICAN PROPOSAL LIMITING WHAT ARMS BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT COULD DEPLOY IN THE SUEZ AREA WOULD BE SIGNED TODAY BY PREMIER GOLDA MIER IN ISRAEL AND BY PRESIDENT ANWAR EL-SADAT IN EGYPT, BOTH IN THE PRESENCE OF SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER.

THE AGREEMENT, KNOWN AS THE "UNITED STATES PROPOSAL," WAS NOT MENTIONED EARLIER IN THE DAY IN ANY OF THE THREE
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CAPITALS WHERE NEWS OF THE MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT WAS

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ANNOUNCED AND IT IS IN ADDITION TO THE MORE BROADLY WORDED AGREEMENT THAT WILL BE SIGNED TODAY AT KILOMETER 101 ON THE CAIRO-SUEZ ROAD.

THAT AGREEMENT WILL DELINEATE ZONES THAT BOTH SIDES WILL OCCUPY WHILE THE OTHER AGREEMENT WILL SPECIFY WHAT ARMS MAY BE USED IN THOSE AREAS.

UNITED STATES OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE DETAILS OF THE ARMS AGREEMENT WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC SOON, BUT REFUSED TO SAY WHEN.

THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE SEPARATE AGREEMENT BROKE A POSSIBLE DEADLOCK IN THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TALKS BECAUSE BOTH SIDES INDICATED THAT THEY WERE MORE WILLING TO SIGN AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL THAN ONE OFFERED BY THE OTHER SIDE.

THE SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL, RUNNING THROUGH THE EVENTS THAT LED UP TO THE UNEXPECTEDLY QUICK AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT, SAID THAT DEFENSE MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN OF ISRAEL AND PRESIDENT SADAT HAD PLAYED INSTRUMENTAL ROLES IN MR. KISSINGER'S MEDIATION EFFORTS.

HE SAID THAT MR. DAYAN, WHILE IN WASHINGTON TWO WEEKS AGO, WAS THE FIRST TO SUGGEST THAT MR. KISSINGER COME TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND PRESENT THE ISRAELI IDEAS ON AN ACCORD TO THE EGYPTIANS.

MR. DAYAN, WHO WAS IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS ISRAEL'S IDEAS ON DISENGAGEMENT WITH MR. KISSINGER, SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS WOULD BE BETTER IF MR. KISSINGER RAISED THE ISRAELI PROPOSALS WITH MR. SADAT RATHER THAN HAVE THEM DISCUSSED AT GENEVA WHERE MILITARY MEN WERE AT WORK ON THE ACCORD, WITH LITTLE SUCCESS.

THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT WHEN MR. DAYAN'S PROPOSAL FOR MR. KISSINGER TO COME OUT TO THE MIDDLE EAST WAS CONVEYED TO THE EGYPTIANS, THEY QUICKLY AGREED TO THE IDEA--IN FACT, INVITING MR. KISSINGER TO COME WITHIN 48 HOURS. HE REACHED ASWAN, WHERE MR. SADAT WAS RECOVERING FROM AN UNCLASSIFIED

ATTACK OF BRONCHITIS, LAST FRIDAY NIGHT.

DURING THE FIRST FULL DISCUSSION SATURDAY MORNING, THE SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID, MR. KISSINGER TOLD MR. SADAT THAT HIS MAIN OBJECTIVE DURING THIS TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST WAS TO GET ISRAEL AND EGYPT TO COME UP WITH CONCRETE PROPOSALS ON DISENGAGEMENT THAT COULD BE NEGOTIATED AT GENEVA.

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BUT TO MR. KISSINGER'S SURPRISE, THE OFFICIAL SAID, MR. SADAT SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE USEFUL IF MR. KISSINGER TRIED TO NEGOTIATE THE FULL DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WHILE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, RATHER THAN LEAVE IT TO "TECHNICIANS."

THIS SUGGESTION BY MR. SADAT WAS CONVEYED TO ISRAELI OFFICIALS THE NEXT DAY IN JERUSALEM, WHEN THEY, TOGETHER WITH MR. KISSINGER AND OTHER AMERICAN AIDES, WORKED OUT A FORMAL ISRAELI NEGOTIATING POSITION.

MR. KISSINGER WENT BACK TO ASWAN LAST SUNDAY NIGHT, CARRYING THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL WHICH CONTAINED DETAILED LIMITATIONS ON ARMS IN THE SUEZ CANAL AREA, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING CURBS ON THE SIZE AND QUALITY OF THE EGYPTIAN FORCES STATIONED ON THE EASTERN BANK OF THE SUEZ CANAL.

THE EGYPTIANS, APPARENTLY, WERE UNHAPPY WITH THE ISRAELI PROPOSALS, AND IT BECAME EVIDENT TO MR. KISSINGER THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO GET AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT ON ARMS LIMITATION IN THE AREA THROUGH THE NORMAL PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

ON MONDAY, WHILE STILL IN ASWAN, MR. KISSINGER BEGAN TO EXAMINE MR. SADAT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS ACCEPTING AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL ON ARMS LIMITATION, WHICH WOULD ALSO BE SI*NED BY THE ISRAELIS.

MR. SADAT AGREED TO MR. KISSINGER'S SUGGESTION AND THIS SET IN MOTION A RATHER INTENSIVE MEDIATION EFFORT BY MR. KISSINGER WITH WHAT BECAME KNOWN AS "THE UNITED STATES PROPOSAL."
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IT WAS NOT KNOWN UNTIL 7:45 P.M. ISRAEL TIME LAST NIGHT WHETHER A FINAL AGREEMENT WAS ACTUALLY DEFINITE, ALTHOUGH ALL SIGNS POINTED THAT WAY, AND SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS HAD ALREADY BEEN SET UP FOR 9 P.M. IN CAIRO AND 3 P.M. IN WASHINGTON.

AT 7:45, MR. SADAT SENT WORD THROUGH TO MR. KISSINGER BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN ASWAN, AMBASSADOR HERMAN F. EILTS AND HAROLD SAUND
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